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WVDA to Take Active Role in 2019 State Fair of West Virginia

Charleston W.Va. – The State Fair of West Virginia is set to begin Thursday, August 8 and will run until Saturday, August 17. This year, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) will once again be hosting the West Virginia Grown Country Store at the Gus R. Douglas Agriculture Annex Building. The store will open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 8 and 9 am to 7:00 pm Aug. 9 – 17 and will feature more than 40 West Virginia vendors and their locally grown products. In addition, the store will host wine and cider tastings, educational opportunities and a maple cotton candy machine run by the West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association.

“Right now, West Virginia is doing a tremendous job promoting our tourism industry. What we must not overlook are the traditional fairs and festivals that embody our culture and heritage,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “If you have missed previous fairs, take time out of your busy schedules, put aside the distractions, pack up the family and head to Lewisburg. Traverse the livestock barns, take part in a honeybee or maple demonstration and support a local farmer by visiting the WVDA Country Store.”

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Join Us at the West Virginia Country Store

- Annie Mac Naturals
- Appalachian Mt. Specialty
- Aroma of the Andes Coffee
- Blue Smoke Salsa
- Bluestone Mountain Farm
- Brookstone Soaps
- Candies by Lind
- Daniel Maple Syrup
- Daniel Vineyards
- Dark Hollow Foods
- Hawk Knob Hard Cider & Mead
- Heasley Homestead Maple
- In a Jam!
- Krisiti Anns Bakery
- Kirkwood Winery
- Lem's Meat Varnish
- Lisa Dawn's Delights
- Lovely Creations Handmade Soaps & More
- M & S Maple Farm
- Nahwya Farms
- Out of This World Salsa
- Rozy's Peppers
- Ruslyn Confections, Inc.
- Safari Meats
- Sassy Gals Gourmet Treats
- Sister Sues Jams & Jellies
- Smith Candy
- Spangler's Family Farm
- Stone Road Vineyard
- Tarbilly's BBQ
- The Black Dog Coffee Company
- The Blue Spoon Café
- The Leavitt Farm
- Thistle Dew Farm, LLC
- Uncle Bunk's, LLC
- Up the Creek Mustard & Sauces
- Walnut Hollow Farm
- WV Maple Syrup Producers
- WV Veteran Produced Honey
- Yoders

Agriculture Annex Activities:

- *Daily wine and hard cider tastings
- *Featured West Virginia Grown products
- *Honeybee hive display
- *Maple cotton candy sampling
- *Farmers Market Rules and Regulations Review
- *Spotted Lanternfly educational display

Special Events:

- *Women in Agriculture Reception, Sunday, August 11, at 11:30 a.m.
- *Governor's Day, Thursday, August 15
- *Farm Heritage Award Luncheon

Commissioner of Agriculture for the Day:

Students ages 9-18 submitted presentations on this year's theme, "The Future of Agriculture: How Technology Can Change the Industry." The winners will serve as Honorary Commissioners of Agriculture for a Day. They'll meet with Commissioner Kent Leonhardt, take part in events during the fair, shadow WVDA staff and take a behind-the-scenes tour of the fairgrounds. They'll also be featured in the September issue of the Market Bulletin.

Produce Safety – Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA):

WVDA will staff an informational booth to discuss educational opportunities, compliance dates, as well as explain new components of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Staff will also be available to assist producers in determining if they qualify for exemptions. In addition, producers will be able to sign up for an On-Farm Readiness review, an on-site visit to determine areas of compliance and make suggestions for improvements.

Poultry Building:

The WVDA Poultry Building (located behind the rabbit hatch) will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Inside you'll find dozens of feathered friends on displays, from turkeys to roosters and the fan-favorite duck slide. With hands-on activities for the entire family, the focus is on the importance of the poultry industry to West Virginia's economy.

Livestock Checkpoint:

WVDA Animal Health Division staff, starting before and throughout the State Fair of West Virginia, will be on hand to inspect all animals entering the grounds for signs of transmittable diseases. Staff will also review any required documents to ensure animal movement requirements are met. The Livestock Check-in Post is located near the livestock gate entrance.

Contact Information:

WVDA Fair Location – Gus R. Douglass Agriculture Annex
WVDA Related Fair Questions – Beth Southern 304-550-3620
Media Inquiries – Crescent Gallagher 304-380-3922
Animal Health – 304-558-2214
State Fair of West Virginia – 304-645-1090

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.

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